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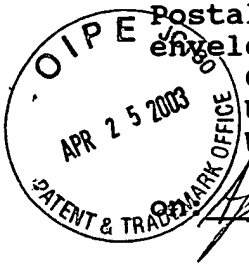

April 21, 2003 Eleanor Hey Smith

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of Davis-Hoover, et al.
USSN 09/970,643
Filed: October 5, 2001
Title: METHOD FOR REDUCING BIO-AVAILABILITY OF LEAD BY A LEAD-SEQUESTERING SOIL BACTERIUM

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2002. A request for extension of time of two months (April 19 being a Saturday) with permission to debit the account of the owner of rights in the patent is provided herewith.

The claims have been amended by cancelling claims 1-4, replacing claim 4 with claim 7, and amending claims 5 and 6 to depend on new claim 7.

Attached is a replacement paragraph for the first paragraph of application and for the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 3 of the specification.

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (amended)

A composition of claim ~~4~~ 7 in an environment containing arsenic.

Claim 6 (amended)

A composition of claim ~~4~~ 7 in an environment containing cadmium.

Claim ~~7~~ (new)

A composition of matter comprising Pseudomonas aeroginosa strain CHL004 which has been assigned ATCC number 55937 growing on a solid matrix wherein said matrix also contains iron.

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of the application with the following:

This application is a continuation of USSN 09/297,235 filed April 26, 1999, which is a 371 application of PCT/US98/08279, filed April 24, 1998, and which issued as U.S. Patent 6,300,212 on October 9, 2001, which takes priority from Provisional Patent Application 60/044,106.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 6 of the application with the following:

The present invention provides improved means for converting bioavailable lead to phosphates which are no longer bioavailable. By conversion of the lead to insoluble lead compounds, the danger of lead poisoning is greatly reduced. The microorganism was isolated from soil samples obtained from the mouth of an abandoned lead mine in Northern Kentucky in Owen County near the city of Gratz on Lead Mine Road off SR 355. It has been deposited in the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC No. 55937) at 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, Virginia 20110-229, USA.
